



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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ICE ARRESTS WOMAN THAT ATTEMPTED TO IMPORT COCAINE BY CONCEALING IT IN A GUITAR

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—A 26-year-old woman was arrested here Friday at Luis Munoz Marin International Airport by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents for allegedly attempting to import 2.36 kilograms of cocaine into the United States in violation of Title 18, United States Code (USC) 545 and Title 21 USC 841 and 952.

Lucia Sanz, a citizen of Spain, who was traveling to New York from the Dominican Republic, was questioned by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers during inspection due to the unusual strong smell that was emanating from a heavy black guitar that she was carrying.

An X-ray examination of the guitar revealed that two brick-shaped objects were concealed. The concealed objects contained a powdery substance that later tested positive for cocaine.

“Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agencies in Puerto Rico work together and are ready and vigilant to detect and apprehend those who think that can break the law and get away with it,” said Lydia St. John-Mellado, acting special agent-in-charge of the ICE office in Puerto Rico. “Those who think that Puerto Rico is an easy way to import drugs into the mainland need to think twice.”

The U.S. Attorney for the District Court of Puerto Rico has accepted the case for prosecution. Sanz is in the custody of the U.S. Marshals and was transferred to the Metropolitan Detention Center in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico.

The ICE investigation into this case is ongoing. Sanz is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.